

Message Text

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FOR: IBS/NCA PASS IBS/PA PASS IPS/PA,
NAIROBI FOR CHANCELLOR

DURING A STOPOVER THIS MORNING AT ADDIS ABABA AIRPORT ENROUTE TO CHARO, THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF KENYA, MOZAMBIQUE, SEYCHELLES AND COMOROS SPOKE BRIEFLY WITH THE PRESS. PRESENT TO GREET THE FOREIGN MINISTERS WAS ATO GETACHEW KIBRET, PERMANENT SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND OTHER ETHIOPIAN OFFICIALS.

RESPONDING TO A QUESTION CONCERNING THE AFRICAN VIEWS ON MAJOR ISSUES WHICH HE EXPECTED TO BE PRESENTED AT THE AFRO-ARAB MEETING, DR. MUNYUA WAIYAKI OF KENYA SAID:

"PROGRESS WILL COME OUT OF THIS CONFERENCE; AS FAR AS I CAN SEE, IT'S GOING TO BE AREAS OF HUMAN EXPERIENCE. IT'S JUST WHAT WE HAVE KNOWN IN THE PAST. THERE WILL OBVIOUSLY BE GOOD POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC AGENTS. WHAT HAS NOT HAPPENED BEFORE IS A DEFINITE APPROACH INTO THESE AREAS OF COOPERATION IN THE AREAS THAT WE WANT TO ATTEND TO IN THE FORTHCOMING CAIRO CONFERENCE. AS YOU KNOW, PART OF AFRICA IS INHABITED BY ARAB PEOPLES; WE HAVE HAD CON-

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TINUING MEETINGS, COOPERATION WITH THOSE AREAS WITHIN THE AFRICAN CONTEXT, AND WITHIN THE OAU, IN ALL FIELDS OF HUMAN ENDEAVOR. NOW WE ALSO KNOW THAT WE HAVE HAD UNDERSTANDING IN A NONALIGNED MOVEMENT AND ARAB COUNTRIES ARE VERY STRONG MEMBERS WITHIN THE NONALIGNED MOVEMENT AND SO ARE AFRICAN MEMBERS. AND, WE KNOW THAT WE ARE ALL WORKING TOGETHER VERY CLOSELY WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SO

THAT THERE IS NO REAL COMPLETELY UNBROKEN GROUND THAT WE ARE GOING TO COVER BUT WHAT WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO DO IS PINPOINT, AS IT WERE, BILATERAL GROUP ASSISTANCE TO ONE ANOTHER -- POLITICALLY, SOCIALLY, ECONOMICALLY. AND ALSO, TO ENHANCE THE BILATERAL POSITIONS THAT WE WILL TAKE ON ECONOMIC MATTERS, FOR EXAMPLE, WITH REGARD TO THE TWO GROUPS OF COUNTRIES -- THE AFRICAN AND THE ARAB. I WANT TO SAY THAT BECAUSE ONE POLITICAL AREA COMES IMMEDIATELY TO MIND AND IN THE CASE OF THE ARABS I AM SURE THEY WILL BE INTERESTED IN WHAT IS GOING TO BE THE AFRICAN POSITION WITH A VIEW TO THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM AND THE PROBLEMS OF THE MIDDLE EAST IN PARTICULAR. FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, WE WILL ALSO WANT TO HEAR WHAT THEY ARE GOING TO SAY ABOUT SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND WHAT ABOUT ZIMBABWE, FOR EXAMPLE? WHAT ABOUT NAMIBIA, WHAT ABOUT ANZANIA, AND WHAT ABOUT THE ASSISTANCE THAT CAN BE GIVEN FROM THE ARABS TO THE FRONTLINE COUNTRIES? I HAVE MY BROTHER, CHISSANO, WHO IS FOREIGN MINISTER FROM MOZAMBIQUE TO MY LEFT, AND OUR MINDS IMMEDIATELY GO VERY QUICKLY TO COUNTRIES LIKE MOZAMBIQUE, WHO HAVE TO BEAR THE BRUNT OF THE EFFORT OF AFRICA AGAINST RACIALISM, AGAINST APARTHEID, AGAINST MINORITY REGIMES -- COUNTRIES LIKE ZAMBIA, BOTSWANA, AND THE HINTERLANDS, FOR INSTANCE, COUNTRIES LIKE TANZANIA. WE WANT TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT IS GOING TO BE THE CASE. THE COUNTRY OF ANGOLA IS A NEW COUNTRY BUT ONE THAT IS FACED WITH PROBLEMS OF ASSISTING A SISTER COUNTRY LIKE NAMIBIA THROUGH SWAPO. WHAT EXACTLY IS THE ARAB LEAGUE AND THE ARAB COUNTRIES -- WHAT ARE THEY THINKING ABOUT THIS PROBLEM? THIS IS THE KIND OF AREA

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WE ARE GOING TO STUDY."

DR. WAIYAKI THEN WAS ASKED HOW STRONG RELATIONS ARE BETWEEN KENYA AND ETHIOPIA CURRENTLY AND HE INDICATED THAT THEY ARE "VERY STRONG." DR. WAIYAKI SAID THAT HE HAD BROUGHT A STATEMENT WHICH HE WISHED TO MAKE ON BEHALF OF THE KENYAN GOVERNMENT. FULL TEXT FOLLOWS:

"KENYA AND ETHIOPIA HAVE ALWAYS ENJOYED FRIENDLY RELATIONS. THIS HAS DERIVED FROM COGNIZANCE OF THE FACT THAT OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE A COMMON DESTINY AND SIMILAR ASPIRATIONS. IT IS KENYA'S SINCERE DESIRE NOT ONLY TO MAINTAIN THESE RELATIONS BUT TO CONTINUE EXAMINING WAYS AND MEANS OF STRENGTHENING THEM FURTHER TO THE MUTUAL BENEFITS OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES. IT IS MY GOVERNMENT'S WISH TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF SOCIALIST ETHIOPIA IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE OUR COMMON OBJECTIVES. MY GOVERNMENT IS CONVINCED THAT WITHOUT CONCERTED EFFORTS THESE OBJECTS CANNOT BE REALIZED.

"KENYA NOTES WITH GREAT SATISFACTION THE PROGRESS BEING MADE BY OUR TWO COUNTRIES IN THEIR JOINT PROJECTS. THE COMPLETION OF THE NAIROBI-ADDIS ABABA HIGHWAY IS A LAND-MARK IN OUR JOINT EFFORTS OF COOPERATION. I NEED NOT EMPHASIZE THE BENEFITS THAT WOULD ACCRUE FROM THE USE OF THE HIGHWAY. IT IS QUITE EVIDENT THAT IT WILL GREATLY ENHANCE OUR JOINT EFFORTS IN TRYING TO ESTABLISH AND EXPAND OUR BILATERAL COMMERCIAL AND TRADE RELATIONS. THE HIGHWAY WILL ALSO PLAY A CENTRAL ROLE IN THE PROMOTION OF CULTURAL AND SOCIAL CONTACTS AMONG OUR PEOPLE. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO OBSERVE THAT MARKED PROGRESS IS BEING MADE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF A HIGH-CAPACITY RADIO LINK BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND KENYA. THIS IS A PRACTICAL INTERPRETATION OF INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATES' DESIRE TO ESTABLISH A CONTINENTAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK. WE IN KENYA, THEREFORE, BELIEVE THAT INCREASED JOINT EFFORTS

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AMONG INDEPENDENT AFRICAN COUNTRIES WILL PLAY A LEADING ROLE IN THE OVERALL PROGRESS OF OUR GREAT CONTINENT.

"ALL EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO ESTABLISH MORE JOINT PROJECTS BETWEEN KENYA AND ETHIOPIA, PARTICULARLY IN THE FIELDS OF AGRICULTURE, WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES ALONG OUR COMMON BORDER.

"AT THIS POINT I WOULD LIKE TO COMMEND THE PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF SOCIALIST ETHIOPIA FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO THE LIBERATION OF AFRICA. IT IS THE BELIEF OF KENYA THAT OUR INDEPENDENCE WOULD BE MEANINGLESS AS LONG AS OUR BROTHERS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND ELSEWHERE IN THE CONTINENT ARE STILL UNDER COLONIAL AND MINORITY RULE. KENYA ALSO COMMENDS THE GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA FOR UPHOLDING THE PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CHARTER OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY INCLUDING THE RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.

"YOUR EXCELLENCY, I WOULD NOW LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REQUEST YOU TO CONVEY THE GREETINGS OF MY PRESENT, H.E. MZEE JOMO KENYATTA, THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF KENYA TO YOUR HEAD OF STATE, H.E. LT. COL. MENGISTU HAILE MARIAM, THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF ETHIOPIA".

MR. JOAQUIN CHISSANO, OF MOZAMBIQUE, WAS ASKED IF HE HAD A PARTICULAR RECOMMENDATION FOR THE AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT CONCERNING ARAB FINANCIAL AND POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR THE STRUGGLE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. HE SAID:

"THE AREAS OF COOPERATION WHICH WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE ARE VERY CLEAR. AND, IT'S UP TO THE ARABS TO EXPRESS IN CLEAR TERMS WHAT THEY INTEND TO DO FROM THEIR SIDE. IN FACT, THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES HAVE SHOWN MORE THAN ONCE

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THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE AND WITH THE ARAB CAUSE AS A WHOLE. BY THIS WE HOPE THAT THE ARABS WILL BE ABLE ALSO TO RECIPROCATE. NOT THAT WE ARE TAKING OUR STAND ON PALESTINIAN AND ARAB CAUSE TO BE "PAID BACK." NO, WE ARE TAKING IT AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE; THEREFORE, DURING THIS CONFERENCE, I THINK THAT WE SHOULD LAY THE FOUNDATIONS, THE PRINCIPLES, FOR OUR COOPERATION SO THAT WE DON'T MAKE BUSINESS, BUT THAT WE COOPERATE ON THE BASIS OF PRINCIPLE, AND WHAT CONCERNS SOUTHERN AFRICA. THE BEST THAT WE CAN REQUIRE IS THAT THEY, AS ALL OF US IN AFRICA, SUPPORT THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE, THE LIBERATION OF ZIMBABWE, WHICH IS A PRIORITY TOGETHER WITH NAMIBIA WHICH ARE PRIORITIES, AND THE FIGHT AGAINST APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA IS TO BE INTENSIFIED, TOO. SO THIS IS WHAT WE DEMAND MORE BECAUSE THE AGGRESSION AGAINST MOZAMBIQUE, THE AGGRESSION AGAINST ZAMBIA, THE AGGRESSION AGAINST BOTSWANA, AND CONSEQUENCES OF THE CONTINUATION OF COLONIALISM IN ZIMBABWE, COLONIALISM IN NAMIBIA, APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA."

MR. GONZAGUE A D'OFFAY, OF THE SEYCHELLES, WAS ASKED WHAT NEW GROUND MIGHT BE BROKEN IN CAIRO. HE REPLIED:

"IT IS VERY DIFFICULT AT THIS TIME FOR ME TO SAY WHAT NEW GROUND WILL BE BROKEN AT THIS AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT OF COUNSELOR MINISTERS IN CAIRO BECAUSE AS YOU HAVE RIGHTLY POINTED OUT, WE ARE ONLY EIGHT MONTHS THAT WE HAVE ATTAINED INDEPENDENCE AND IT IS VERY DIFFICULT FOR ME TO COMMENT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE AFRO-ARAB CONFERENCE IN CAIRO. AS WE ARE A NEW NATION WE ARE STILL LEARNING A LOT, WE ARE NEW TO THE WORLD, AND ATTENDING THIS CONFERENCE, WE WILL LEARN A LOT, AND I CANNOT COMMENT ON ANYTHING AT THIS STAGE."

MR. MOUZAWAR ABDALLAH, OF COMOROS, SPOKE VERY BRIEFLY, IN FRENCH BUT POST CANNOT REPORT SINCE NO TRANSLATOR WAS PRESENT.

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